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Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea**I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1320 (2000) of 15 September 2000, in which the Council authorized the deployment within the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) of 4,200 troops, including 220 military observers, until 15 March 2001. In paragraph 15 of that resolution, the Council decided that, in considering the renewal of the mandate of UNMEE, it would take into account whether the parties had made adequate progress in the process of delimitation and demarcation of the Ethiopian-Eritrean border and in the conclusion of a comprehensive and final peace settlement. In paragraph 12 of the resolution, the Council requested me to keep it closely and regularly informed of progress towards the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report provides recommendations regarding the extension of the mandate of UNMEE. It also contains an update on political and humanitarian developments and on the deployment and activities of UNMEE since my progress report of 12 January 2001 (S/2001/45).

II. Political developments

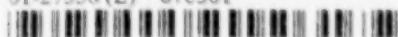
3. It should be recalled that, on 12 December 2000, the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea signed an Agreement which provides that the two parties shall permanently terminate military hostilities between themselves, shall refrain from the threat or use of force against each other, and shall respect and fully implement the provisions of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000 (S/2000/601,

annex). The Agreement of 12 December also provides for the early release and repatriation of prisoners of war and all other persons detained as a result of the armed conflict. At the same time, it calls for an investigation to be conducted by an independent and impartial body to determine the origins of the conflict. The Agreement further envisages the establishment of a neutral boundary commission, which is mandated to delimit and demarcate the colonial treaty border based on pertinent colonial treaties and applicable international law. In addition, the Agreement provides for the establishment of a neutral commission to decide on all claims for loss, damage or injury from either side.

Establishment of the Temporary Security Zone

4. Over the course of the last few weeks, the parties made major strides towards establishing the Temporary Security Zone envisaged in the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. The Zone, which is temporary in nature and in no way prejudices the final status of any contested areas, is a critical first step to instil confidence, disengage troops and allow both Governments to arrange for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons and revive local economic life. It will also enable humanitarian organizations to begin their activities in the area.

5. The progress in establishing the Temporary Security Zone resulted from the agreement reached by the parties at the third meeting of the Military Coordination Commission held at Nairobi on 8 February. At that meeting, the parties accepted in general terms the proposal presented by UNMEE for the southern boundary of the Temporary Security Zone, thus resolving the impasse which developed at the second meeting of the Commission held on 28



December 2000. The United Nations proposal was based on an assessment of the Ethiopian redeployment plans submitted earlier and resulted from a series of consultations conducted by my Special Representative, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, and the Force Commander of UNMEE, Major General Patrick Cammaert. At the meeting, however, both parties also registered reservations about the United Nations proposals. The Military Coordination Commission noted for the record the Eritrean reservation that the southern boundary of the proposed Temporary Security Zone did not reflect the line of administration of 6 May 1998 referred to in the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. The Commission also noted the Ethiopian reservation concerning the possible need, in the implementation stage, for adjustments or corrections to the northern and southern boundaries. Having expressed reservations, both parties indicated, in a cooperative spirit, their eagerness to move ahead with the process and agreed to a timetable for the redeployment of Ethiopian forces, the repositioning of Eritrean forces, and the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone. The Force Commander also announced his intention, after the establishment of the Zone, to establish sector-level Military Coordination Commissions.

6. As decided at the third meeting of the Military Coordination Commission, the Force Commander immediately proceeded to translate the agreed map into a larger scale operational map for use by the United Nations and the parties on the ground. This larger scale map, which was arrived at in good faith following further study by UNMEE of the Ethiopian redeployment plans and additional contacts and consultations with the senior military representatives of both Governments, was delivered to the parties.

7. The Government of Ethiopia initiated the redeployment of its forces on 12 February and notified UNMEE on 22 February, four days before the deadline agreed upon by the parties, that it had completed this process. Similarly, Eritrea began to rearrange its forces northward on 17 February, in a process that should have been completed by 3 March. At the same time, Eritrea registered its strong objection to the operational map.

8. Pursuant to its mandate, in a process that began on 26 February, UNMEE established control of all sensitive locations inside the future Temporary Security Zone and monitored the redeployment and repositioning of the armed forces of both parties. At the

time of drafting of the present report, UNMEE was completing its verification of the redeployment by Ethiopian forces to be complete.

9. The fourth meeting of the Military Coordination Commission, on 28 February, was held, for the first time, inside the future Temporary Security Zone. The Commission recorded the substantial progress made to date on Ethiopian redeployment, Eritrean repositioning and the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone. However, the Eritrean delegation registered anew its strong objection to the adjustments made to the original map, but stated Eritrea's intention to carry out the rearrangement of its forces according to the original map agreed to by the parties in Nairobi on 6 February. The Force Commander also noted the renewed demand by the Ethiopian delegation that Eritrea should stay 25 km apart from Ethiopia's forces, as provided for in the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. At the meeting, representatives of the parties also agreed to cooperate with the verification process initiated by UNMEE and to allow complete freedom of movement for that purpose.

10. Unfortunately, despite Eritrea's stated intention to abide by the understandings reached on 6 February, its Commissioner for Cooperation with the Peacekeeping Mission informed my Special Representative in a letter dated 1 March that Eritrea had halted the repositioning of its forces, on the basis of the objections described above. While Eritrea has already repositioned substantial numbers of its troops north of the future Temporary Security Zone, it still maintains a significant military presence in all three sectors. UNMEE assesses that these troops are prepared to move but are awaiting orders to do so. As at 6 March, UNMEE had not been in a position to declare the formal establishment of the Temporary Security Zone owing to the continuing presence of Eritrean troops inside the future Zone.

11. This situation has created a delicate and potentially dangerous vacuum of authority in the areas where the Temporary Security Zone is to be established. UNMEE peacekeepers face an unstable situation, as one or the other party may be tempted to move back into areas that have recently been vacated. UNMEE is also concerned by recent instances where its freedom of movement was restricted by the parties: several requests for low flights over the Temporary Security Zone were denied over the course of the last 10 days and some United Nations patrols in the future

Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas faced restrictions, which have been addressed by UNMEE on a case-by-case basis.

12. Furthermore, the current situation presents serious law and order problems. In accordance with the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Eritrean civil administration, including police and local militia, is to be restored in the Temporary Security Zone to prepare for the return of the civilian population. To date, Eritrea has chosen not to restore its civil administration in the town of Senafe, even though it was invited to do so at the fourth meeting of the Military Coordination Commission. The Eritrean Commission for Cooperation with the Peacekeeping Mission has also postponed sine die the final meeting of the Military Coordination Commission's joint subcommittee on militia and police, which was to adopt a protocol on the functions, organization and responsibilities of Eritrean police and militia in the Temporary Security Zone.

13. It should be recalled that the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone is fundamentally a confidence-building measure aimed at separating the troops. During the reporting period, in spite of the continued occurrence of small incidents, the military situation between the two armed forces has generally remained calm. However, UNMEE has reported small arms firings and instances of destruction of property attributed to one or the other party.

Boundary Commission and Claims Commission

14. In paragraph 13 of its resolution 1320 (2000), the Security Council requested me to provide regular updates on the status of the delimitation and demarcation of the Ethiopian-Eritrean border.

15. By 26 January, in compliance with the 12 December Agreement, both parties notified me of the appointment of the Commissioners of the Boundary Commission and submitted to its Secretary, who is the Chief of the Cartographic Section of the United Nations Secretariat, their claims and evidence relevant to the Commission's mandate. The party-appointed Commissioners selected the President of the Boundary Commission on 20 February. However, in a letter dated 12 February, the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia informed me that his Government objected to one of the Commissioners nominated by Eritrea. In spite of my appeal to reconsider this objection, the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia wrote on 2 March to the

Secretary of the Boundary Commission, formally challenging the appointment. As requested by the Government of Ethiopia, the Secretary of the Boundary Commission has transmitted this letter to all members of the Commission, Eritrea and myself.

16. In the meantime, in accordance with the Agreement, the Secretary of the Commission is forwarding to the Commission all claims and evidence presented by the parties, so that the Commission may commence its work. By 12 March, the Secretary will also transmit to the Commission and to the parties any materials relevant to the mandate of the Commission as well as his findings identifying those portions of the border concerning which there appears to be no dispute between the parties. The Commission is planning to hold its first meeting on 25 March at The Hague.

17. In addition to the arbitral proceedings to be held by the Commission, the delimitation and demarcation of the border will require considerable on-site technical work. The Secretary of the Boundary Commission is prepared to undertake such tasks as are assigned to him by the Commission and to cooperate closely with other institutions as decided by the Commission. UNMEE is also prepared to provide on-site logistical support, within available resources, as well as to provide all relevant information which the Commission may require.

18. With regard to the resources at the disposal of the Commission, I have so far received no indication from the parties of the financial arrangements they have made, or intend to make, to meet their obligation to bear the Boundary Commission's costs. The current balance of the Trust Fund established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1177 (1998) remains at just over \$1.7 million. In this connection, I would like to reiterate the observations made in paragraphs 36 to 38 of my previous report (S/2001/45).

19. As envisaged in the Agreement of 12 December, by 26 January, both parties had notified me of the appointment of the four party-appointed Arbitrators of the Claims Commission. On 26 February, the United Nations was informed that the party-appointed Arbitrators had selected their President, thus confirming the date of establishment of the Claims Commission.

Release and repatriation of prisoners of war and other persons detained as a result of the armed conflict

20. Under article 2 of the Agreement of 12 December the parties committed themselves to releasing and repatriating without delay all prisoners of war and all other persons detained as a result of the armed conflict, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Since the signing of that agreement, Ethiopia has released a total of 614 prisoners of war and Eritrea a total of 628. During the reporting period, the release and repatriation of prisoners of war was only partly completed. Progress in this process has slowed because of disagreements between the parties. ICRC and my Special Representative have recently made progress in resolving these difficulties and expect that repatriations will soon resume.

21. During the reporting period, 989 civilian internees were released by Ethiopia and returned to Eritrea. Eritrea repatriated to Ethiopia 4,357 civilian internees. As a result of these actions, a total number of 4,985 prisoners of war and civilian internees have returned to Ethiopia and 1,603 to Eritrea since December 2000.

III. Status of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Deployment of the Mission

22. The timely deployment of United Nations troops to the mission area, which continues to proceed in a satisfactory manner, allowed the Force Commander to communicate to both parties on 10 February that he had a "credible force to carry out the UNMEE mandate", a criterion which was established by the Military Coordination Commission as a requirement for the Ethiopian redeployment process to begin.

23. As at 1 March, the strength of the military component of UNMEE stood at 4,143 military personnel from over 40 countries, including 3,236 troops, 121 military staff, 212 military observers and 574 national support elements. In addition, the civilian component of the Mission comprises 159 international and 114 local staff. The vast majority of UNMEE military personnel will be deployed by mid-March, with the total troop strength of up to 4,200 personnel,

including up to 220 military observers, but excluding national support elements.

24. During the reporting period, Brigadier General Christopher Arap Kuto of Kenya assumed the functions of Deputy Force Commander. As was stated in my last report to the Council (S/2001/45), the Netherlands/Canadian battalion is fully operational and deployed in the central sector. The Jordanian battalion was inducted in the western sector and is also fully operational. After initial delays in its deployment, which required the Force Commander to temporarily reposition a reinforced Canadian platoon from the central sector to sector East, the Kenyan battalion had been fully operational in sector East as from 1 March. As already reported, the Italian aviation unit, the Slovak demining engineering company and the Danish guard and administrative unit are also already in place. In addition, the Jordanian level II hospital and the Italian military police company became functional on 1 February. In the meantime, the main body of the Bangladeshi engineering company arrived in the theatre of operations on 23 February, while the main bodies of the Indian force reserve company and the construction engineering company are expected to be inducted around 10 March.

25. I would like to reiterate my particular gratitude to the participating countries for their prompt and generous contributions, which allowed a quick and efficient deployment of the force, which is so necessary to put the implementation of the ceasefire arrangements on track and to move the peace process forward.

Status-of-forces agreements and freedom of movement

26. Negotiations between Ethiopia and the Secretariat over the few outstanding issues, in particular exemption from taxation and freedom of movement to and from the Temporary Security Zone, are still ongoing. It is hoped that, with additional flexibility by the Government, an agreement will be reached soon. No agreement has yet been reached with Eritrea, as the latter continues to insist on the inclusion in the status-of-forces agreement of provisions which would require the United Nations, contrary to the existing practice in other peacekeeping operations, to test all UNMEE personnel arriving in the country for HIV/AIDS, as well as on security pre-screening of local employees by the Government of Eritrea.

27. In my last report to the Security Council, I stated that the issue of direct flights between Asmara and Addis Ababa, which is an important operational requirement for the Mission, had been resolved. By the time the report was submitted, an UNMEE aircraft had flown using a direct high-altitude route between the two capitals. However, on the following day, these flights were put on hold, pending further discussion and agreement on the exact route to be used by UNMEE aircraft.

28. In this connection, I wish to highlight that both the Government of Ethiopia and the Government of Eritrea committed themselves in the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities to guaranteeing the free movement of UNMEE throughout the territories of the parties. I therefore call on them to grant complete freedom of movement to UNMEE flights between the two countries in accordance with the flight path that UNMEE may request. For its part, UNMEE will offer appropriate prior notification to enable the authorities of both countries to ensure the safety of such flights. When preparing flight paths, UNMEE would also be ready to take into account legitimate national security concerns that the two Governments may invoke.

Public information

29. As the Council is aware, an effective public information programme is an essential component of any successful peacekeeping operation. In this connection, the good work carried out by the Mission's public information office should be underscored. The office also plays an important role in contributing to the peace process and its transparency.

30. Following extensive negotiations with concerned authorities in Eritrea, Radio UNMEE began broadcasting 1-hour programmes in Arabic, English, Tigre and Tigrinya on 16 January. The United Nations radio features news on the latest developments in the Mission and the peace process; it also broadcasts public service announcements and provides information on humanitarian issues. UNMEE is prepared to broadcast a parallel programme on Radio Ethiopia. However, in January, the national authorities in Addis Ababa raised objections to the possibility of providing facilities to UNMEE broadcasting at no charge. Despite intense negotiations and proposals by UNMEE, this matter has yet to be resolved. In the meantime, the contents of radio programmes are posted on the UNMEE web site in English and six local

languages (Amharic, Arabic, Afaan Oromo, Tigre, Ethiopian-Tigrinya, Eritrean-Tigrinya).

31. UNMEE public information has continued its media outreach programmes, including sponsoring a trip for international and national media to witness the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone, regular press conferences with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Force Commander and briefings for the diplomatic, United Nations and non-governmental organization communities.

Mine action

32. The presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance in the future Temporary Security Zone and areas adjacent to it is a threat not only to UNMEE personnel but also to the populations concerned. The Mission frequently receives reports of landmine explosions on both sides of the border. The possibility of spontaneous movements of internally displaced persons and the return of refugees to contaminated areas before mine clearance can be undertaken is a source of major concern.

33. In spite of repeated requests from UNMEE, neither party has so far provided complete information on mine fields. This has obviously constituted a serious limitation on the Mission's ability to produce the information which is essential to the safe conduct of UNMEE operations and those of humanitarian agencies in the Zone. At the last meeting of the Military Coordination Commission, both parties agreed to substantive discussions with the Mine Action Coordination Centre in their respective capitals to accelerate the handover of all mine information. However, further to the meeting, the Eritrean Commission for Cooperation with the Peacekeeping Mission cited objections to the Temporary Security Zone map as a reason for not transmitting the requested information on mine fields. Furthermore, Eritrea has delayed the deployment of civilian deminers who were due to begin working in the areas that will constitute the future Temporary Security Zone.

34. To better coordinate mine action activities, UNMEE has established a mine action priority setting coordination group at the UNMEE office in Asmara, chaired by the Deputy Special Representative. The UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Centre will provide the coordination group with secretariat functions and expert advice, and supervise the

implementation of mine action based on the group's decisions and recommendations.

35. In February, the Mine Action Coordination Centre began training 150 local personnel in cooperation with Danish Church Aid and the Eritrean Humanitarian Demining Programme. Unfortunately, the training initiative has been forced to proceed under ad hoc emergency funding arrangements. The implications of the expected delay in completing demining training are serious. Trained deminers need to be deployed quickly in order to minimize the risks to those areas that are still mined.

36. UNMEE and the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Asmara are continuing discussions with the Eritrean authorities on the need to inform displaced persons about the dangers of premature returns to some of the villages, especially those located close to former frontlines. The Mine Action Coordination Centre and the United Nations Children's Fund also support a public education programme to increase mine awareness.

Quick impact projects

37. In order to address immediate needs in the Temporary Security Zone, UNMEE has launched a programme to fund quick-impact projects designed to support small-scale relief activities, focused mainly on the areas of water and public sanitation, medical services, civil infrastructure and capacity-building for these activities. These projects will be implemented by United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and units of the UNMEE force.

IV. Humanitarian developments

38. The population of Eritrea and Ethiopia continues to face a difficult humanitarian situation as a result of the impact of the drought, now in its third year. In Eritrea and in the Ethiopian areas close to the present frontlines, the immediate effects of the war compound these conditions. The distinction between those affected by drought and those suffering from the effects of the war is becoming increasingly blurred.

39. On 22 February, the Government of Eritrea and the United Nations country team launched a humanitarian appeal for \$217 million, of which \$157 million will be part of the first consolidated inter-agency appeal of nine United Nations agencies. The

aim of the recent appeal is to stabilize the situation of the most vulnerable, in particular internally displaced persons and the recently returned refugees, and to promote their recovery and sustainable reintegration. Since autumn 2000, 55,000 Eritrean refugees returned from the Sudan. A total of 208,000 internally displaced persons are still hosted in 24 camps, while an additional 100,000 to 150,000 internally displaced persons are in host communities. The largest sector of the appeal is for food-related interventions for 1.76 million beneficiaries.

40. The United Nations country team for Ethiopia appealed on 20 February for \$203 million to assist 6.24 million people affected by the drought and approximately 400,000 people who have been displaced as a consequence of the war.

41. The establishment of the Temporary Security Zone will pose additional humanitarian challenges. It will require the provision of major assistance both for those returning to areas in and around the Zone and for those who remained in the territories that will now be part of it. While the needs in areas that are already accessible have been addressed in the consolidated appeals, the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone will be followed by a rapid humanitarian needs assessment, conducted by the Government and by United Nations agencies, for those areas that have not yet been covered. Key areas of concern will include food security, health, water and sanitation, housing, education and the return and reintegration to their villages in the Temporary Security Zone of an estimated 160,000 internally displaced persons currently in camps. Attention will also need to be given to emergency reconstruction. It is expected that an addendum to the consolidated appeal will be launched to support humanitarian programmes in the Temporary Security Zone.

42. To address issues of access to the Temporary Security Zone, a civil-military coordination cell has been established, linking UNMEE and the humanitarian agencies working in the Temporary Security Zone. Its officers meet regularly with the United Nations country team for Ethiopia. A mechanism has also been established at working group level for sharing information and strategies between United Nations agencies and UNMEE. Full cooperation between the humanitarian community, donors and the Governments is required to address the challenges that

a rapid influx of returnees to the Temporary Security Zone would pose.

V. Financial aspects

43. The General Assembly, by its resolution 55/237 of 23 December 2000, granted me commitment authority, with assessment, in the amount of \$150 million to cover the immediate start-up costs of UNMEE and its initial requirements. My proposed budget for the Mission for the 2000-2001 financial period, amounting to \$199.1 million has already been reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. I expect the General Assembly to take action on the financing of UNMEE during the first part of its resumed fifty-fifth session in March 2001.

44. As at 31 January 2001, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNMEE special account, representing the first assessment for the Mission covering the period from its inception to 15 March 2001, amounted to \$110.2 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to \$2,651.6 million.

VI. Observations and recommendations

45. Despite the difficulties that have emerged recently, in particular with regard to the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone, Ethiopia and Eritrea have generally continued to demonstrate commitment to the implementation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000 and the Agreement signed in Algiers on 12 December.

46. During the reporting period, no significant violations of the ceasefire have occurred, notwithstanding the recent instances of friction in the Temporary Security Zone. The risk of such violations will undoubtedly decrease when the Temporary Security Zone is formally established. However, the current legal and security vacuum that has been created as a result of the delay in the formal establishment of the Zone constitutes a potentially dangerous situation, which should be expeditiously resolved. Instances of restriction of the freedom of movement of members of UNMEE, which have occurred in particular over the last days, are also a source of concern. It is essential

that the parties continue to maintain and enhance close cooperation with the Mission, working constructively within the Military Coordination Commission and the sector-level military coordinating committees that the Force Commander intends to convene once the Temporary Security Zone is established.

47. In spite of the fact that overall cooperation between the parties and UNMEE has been satisfactory, a few important issues remain unresolved. It is essential that both parties grant UNMEE unimpeded and unconditional freedom of movement, including the establishment of the most practicable direct high-altitude flights between the two capitals. I also call upon the parties to sign the status-of-forces agreements with the United Nations without further delay.

48. The establishment of the Boundary Commission and the Claims Commission, and the submission of claims and evidence to the Boundary Commission within the time-frame established by the Agreement of 12 December, are also positive developments. The work of the Boundary Commission is particularly relevant to the mandate of UNMEE, since the Security Council has emphasized in its resolution 1320 (2000) that the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities links the termination of UNMEE to the completion of the process of delimitation and demarcation of the border. It is hoped that the challenge presented by Ethiopia to one of the Commissioners appointed by Eritrea will be expeditiously resolved and will not result in major delays for the work of the Boundary Commission.

49. The success of the Boundary Commission will require that its activities be put on an adequate financial footing. While the parties have not yet indicated to the Secretariat what financial resources they will make available to meet the costs of the Boundary Commission, voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established by the Security Council in its resolution 1177 (1998) remain for the time being at the level of \$1.7 million. While the full requirements of the Commission will be known only after its budget has been prepared, the funds currently available would sustain the Commission's activities only for a limited initial period. Therefore, I once again urge the parties to put in place the necessary financial arrangements for meeting the costs of the Commission, and reiterate my appeal to donors to contribute generously to the Trust Fund.

50. Given the close link between UNMEE and the Boundary Commission, I indicated in my last progress report that, in order to facilitate the early start-up of the Commission, it would be advisable that the costs related to the work of the Secretary of the Commission, who is a United Nations staff member, as well as any support that the Secretary and the Commission may require in the field from UNMEE, be included in the Mission's budget. That recommendation is still valid.

51. The establishment of the Temporary Security Zone will no doubt be accompanied by increased humanitarian challenges associated with the return of population to areas in and around it. To reduce the risks associated with mines for displaced persons returning to their homes, adequate mine-clearance and mine-awareness programmes will be required. I appeal to donors to contribute generously to the Mine Action Coordination Centre established by UNMEE to assist in this vital area.

52. The attention of donors is also called to the consolidated appeals launched recently by the United Nations for Ethiopia and Eritrea to alleviate the plight of populations affected by years of severe drought conditions and war. Furthermore, the United Nations country team in Eritrea, in cooperation with the Government, intends to undertake an assessment of the additional needs of those returning to the areas in and around the Temporary Security Zone and of those who remained in the territories which will soon constitute the Zone.

53. Since its establishment, UNMEE has achieved significant progress in the implementation of its mandate. Its continued presence will provide crucial support to the peace process. I therefore recommend that the mandate of UNMEE be extended for six months, until 15 September 2001, and that it be adjusted to include the support to the Boundary Commission referred to in paragraph 50 above.

54. The people of Ethiopia and Eritrea have suffered grave losses during the tragic war between the two countries. Over the past few months, the two Governments have shown commitment to a peaceful settlement of the conflict. I encourage them to persevere on the road to peace, which will allow the two countries to build the foundations for economic recovery and to ensure that trust is restored and genuine reconciliation takes root. I call upon both Governments to make every effort to ensure that the

difficulties that have surfaced recently are overcome and do not become a major obstacle to the consolidation of this process.

55. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Representative and to all the military and civilian personnel of UNMEE for their devoted efforts in the quest for peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea. I also wish to express my gratitude for the support offered by the Organization of African Unity and by the Member States assisting in this process.

Annex

**United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea:
contributions as at 6 March 2001**

	<i>UNMO</i>	<i>Troops</i>	<i>Headquarters</i>	<i>NSE*</i>	<i>Total</i>
Algeria	8				8
Argentina			1		1
Australia			2		2
Austria	3		5		8
Bangladesh	6	160	4		170
Benin	5		2		7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8				8
Bulgaria	4				4
Canada	7	227	8	239	481
China	5				7
Czech Republic	2				2
Denmark	4	203	7	108	322
Finland	7		2		9
France		10	2		12
Gambia	4				4
Ghana	11		7		18
Greece					
India	5		4		9
Italy	5	143	7		155
Jordan	6	944	12		962
Kenya	11	606	13		630
Malaysia	7		5		12
Namibia	3				3
Nepal	4				4
Netherlands	1	787	10	227	1 025
Nigeria	6				6
Norway	5		4		9
Paraguay	2				2
Peru	2				2
Poland	6		6		12
Romania	8				8
Russian Federation	6				6
Singapore	2				2
Slovakia		156	4		160
South Africa	5		2		7
Spain	3		1		4

	<i>UNMO</i>	<i>Troops</i>	<i>Headquarters</i>	<i>NSE*</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sweden	8		5		13
Switzerland	4				4
Tunisia	3				3
Ukraine	6				6
United Republic of Tanzania	8		3		11
Uruguay	6				6
United States of America	6		1		7
Zambia	10		4		14
Total	212	3 236	121	574	4 143

* National support element.